

Mississippi's Lower Delta Partnership

Creating a Forum for Consensus



Promote and Enhance the Economic and
Environmental Health of the Lower Delta



Business Council for
Sustainable Development
Gulf of Mexico



Fields to Forests
A Carbon/Conservation Co.



NEW LDP MEMBER



Mississippi Black Bear
Restoration Task Force



Mississippi's Lower Delta Partnership
has created a "Forum for Consensus"
for citizens, government agencies,
and conservation organizations in the
southern portion of the Mississippi Delta.

Mississippi's Lower Delta Partnership

Creating a Forum for Consensus

GOALS:

PROVIDE INNOVATIVE, VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS THAT
PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR RESTORATION AND
CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LANDS AND WATERS

OPTIMIZE THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ON PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS

FOSTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH OF SUSTAINABLE USE
OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

IMPROVE AND DEVELOP COMPATIBLE RECREATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES



**PRESERVE
HISTORY**



**ENHANCE
RECREATION**



**PROMOTE
CONSERVATION**

Planning For Future Generations of Mississippians

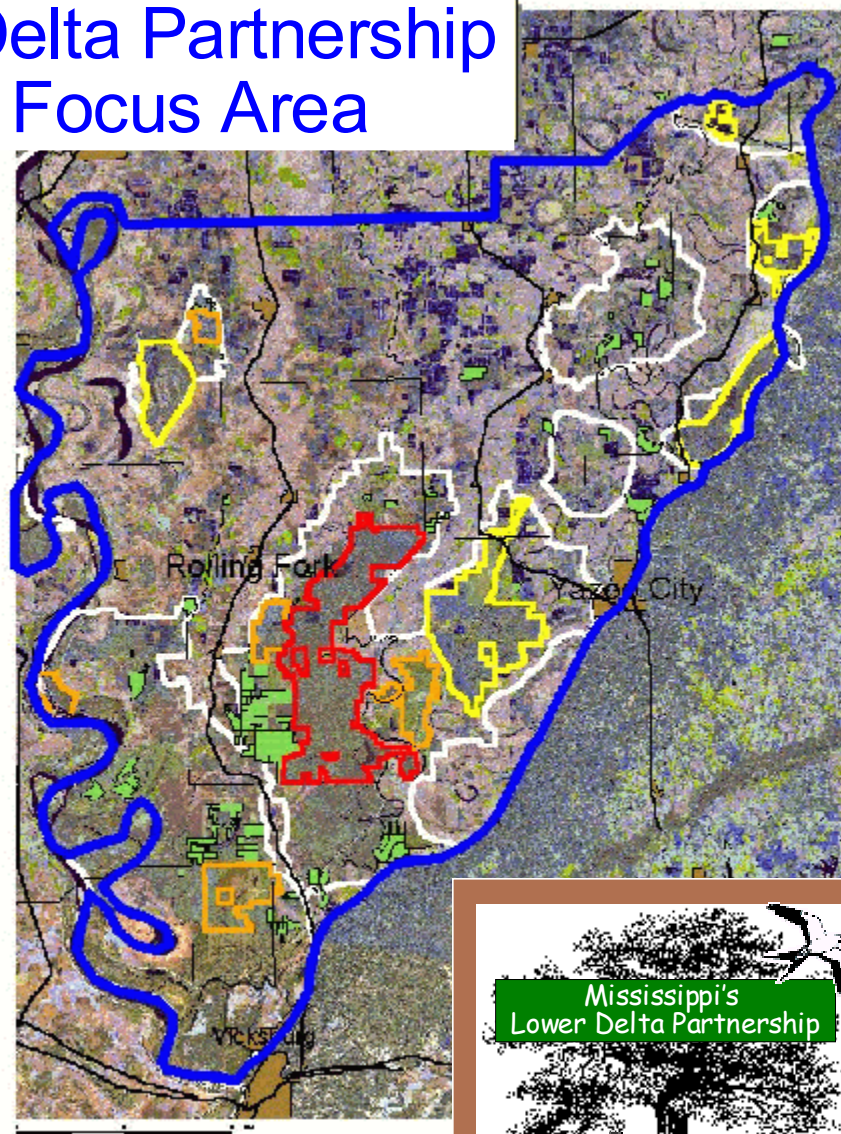
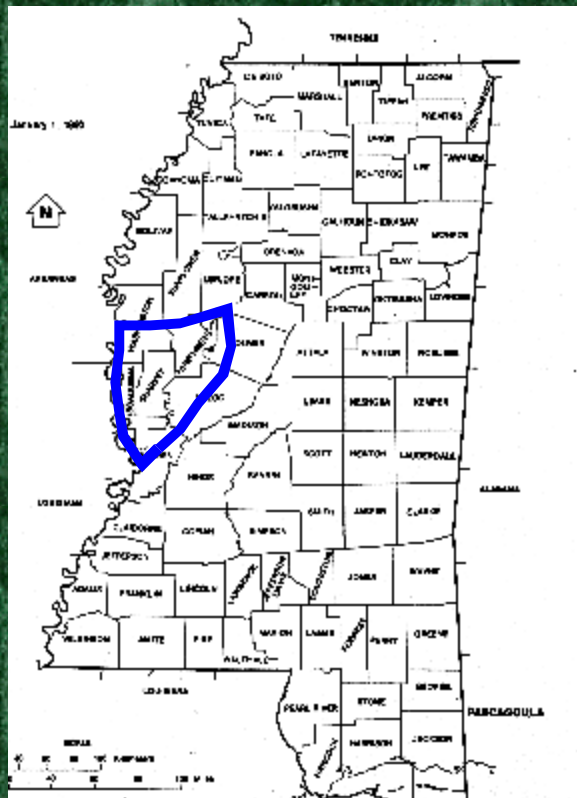


**IMPROVE
EDUCATION**



**FACILITATE
RESTORATION**

Lower Delta Partnership Primary Focus Area



Today, the Economy of the Lower Delta is Almost Entirely Dependent on Agriculture Even Though the Area Contains Some of the Country's Richest Natural Resources

- 200,000 acres of forested conservation lands (public & private)
- Last remnants of the bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem
- Unequaled outdoor recreational opportunities
- Outstanding bottomland hardwood forest restoration potential
- The "Mighty" Mississippi and Yazoo Rivers
- Extremely rich history and culture
- The Nation's highest forest carbon sequestration potential

The Lower Delta Partnership is Encouraging the Sustainable Utilization of Existing Natural and Cultural Resources

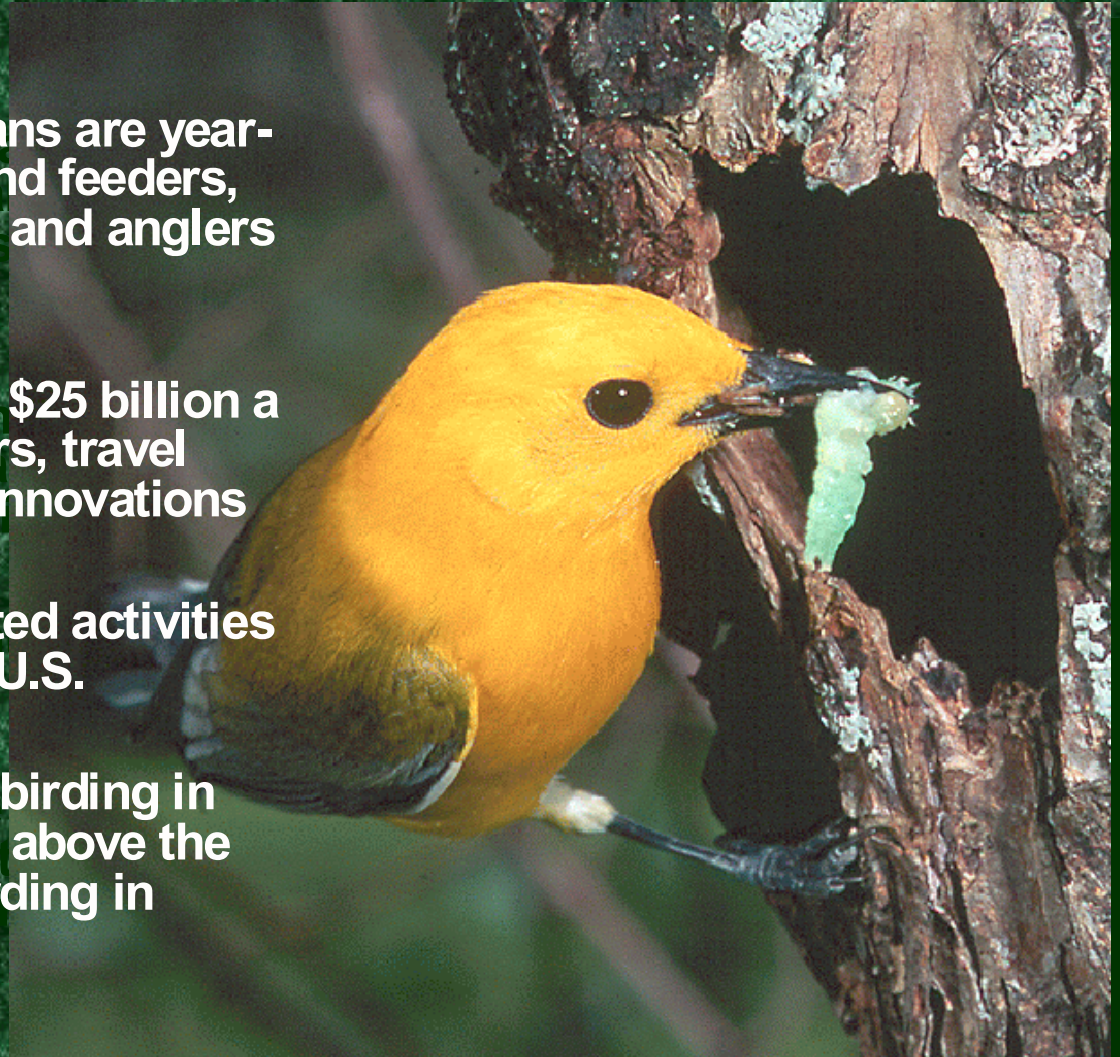
The Lower Delta Partnership is looking not to replace traditional agriculture, but rather to create an atmosphere which stimulates economic diversification through the compatible and sustainable utilization of naturally-occurring resources and cultural sites:

- Fee hunting operations
- Bird watching tours
- Swamp and river tours
- Forestry -- Carbon sequestration, Forest products
- Prehistoric Native American site tours
- Blues Festivals, Tours

Economic Benefits of Bird Watching

Source: New York Times

- One-fifth of all americans are year-round bird watchers and feeders, outnumbering hunters and anglers combined
- They spend more than \$25 billion a year on feed, binoculars, travel forays, and high-tech innovations
- Birdwatching and related activities employs 60,000 in the U.S.
- The number of people birding in 2001 grew 232 percent above the number involved in birding in 1983.



Economic Benefits of Wildlife-Related Activities in Mississippi (2001)



TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$1,086,846,000

Source: 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, State Overview, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, May, 2002.

The Lower Delta Partnership is Encouraging the Restoration of Marginal Cropland

Nearly 50,000 acres of marginal agricultural land in the Lower Delta has been enrolled in U.S.D.A Wetland and Conservation Reserve Programs

In excess of 100,000 acres of marginal agricultural land remains in production today

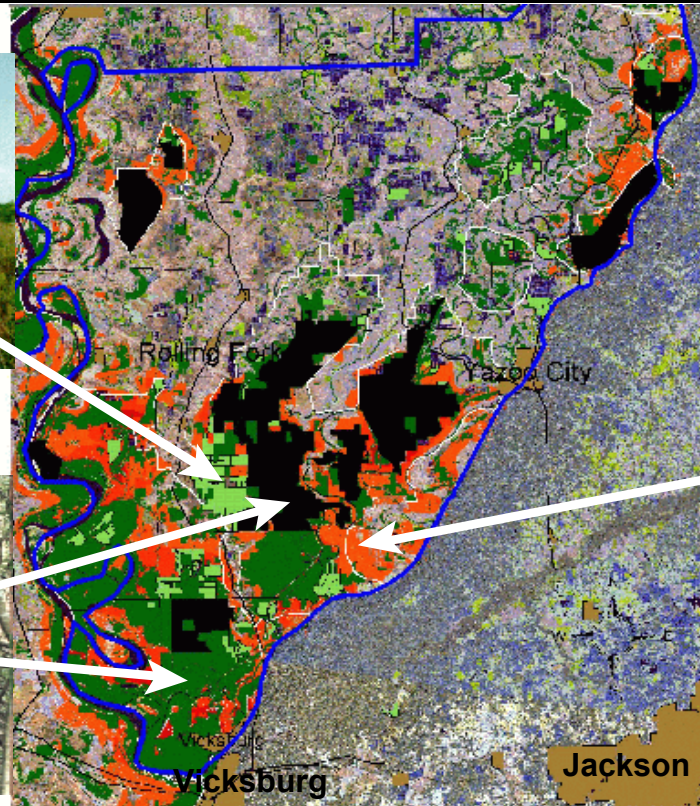
These marginal agricultural lands are juxtaposed and/or interspersed with existing state and federal forest lands, thus increasing their potential economic, recreational, and environmental value if restored to bottomland hardwood forest

**100,000 acres of Marginal Agricultural Land
Currently in Production in the Lower Delta**

**Restored
Lands**



**Public & Private
Forest Lands**



**Lands with a High
Restoration
Priority**



Economic and Environmental Benefits of Restoration

- Forest Products Benefits
 - Timber Production
 - Bioenergy Production
- Recreational Benefits
 - Fee Hunting
 - Non-Consumptive Recreation
- Environmental Benefits
 - Increased Carbon Sequestration
 - Improved Water Quality
 - Improved Air Quality
 - Improved Fish and Wildlife Habitat



A Historical Perspective and a Vision for the Future of Mississippi's Lower Delta

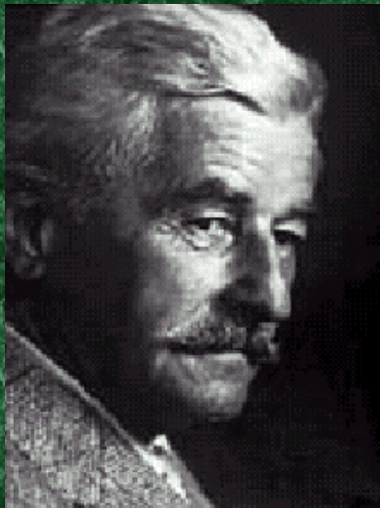
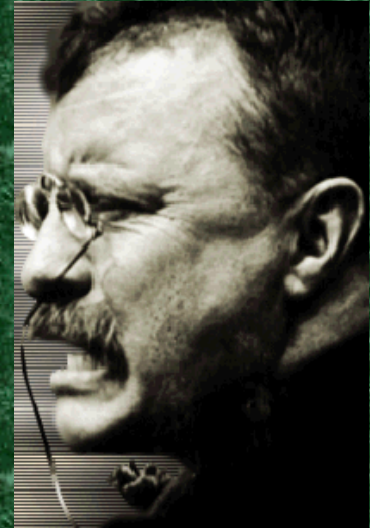


‘In utilizing and conserving the natural resources of the Nation, the one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight....’

Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919). *Address to the National Editorial Association, Jamestown, Virginia, June 10, 1907.*

The Lower Delta was once part of a 22 million acre floodplain forest which inspired great politicians, conservationists, and writers

“Beyond the end of cultivation towers the great forest...the giant cypress loom aloft, rivalled in size by some of the red gums and white oaks. In stature...lordlier kings of the green-leaved world are not to be found until we reach the sequoias and redwoods of the Sierras.” *Theodore Roosevelt*



“The rich, deep, black alluvial soil which would grow cotton taller than the head of a man on a horse...printed now by the tracks of unalien shapes-bear and deer and panthers and hogs and wolves and alligators and the myriad smaller beasts, and unalien men to name them, too, perhaps - in the trackless infested forest -.”
William Faulkner

The Lower Delta was once part of a 22 million acre floodplain forest of astonishing biodiversity

Once Home to:

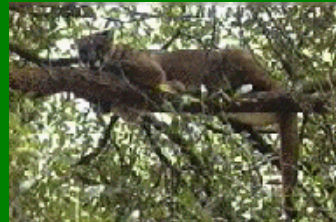
Red Wolf



Ivory-billed woodpecker



Florida Panther



Black Bear



European Settlement

Mississippi Delta

Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley

But, as the forest habitat was cleared,
wildlife dependent on that habitat disappeared

Once Home to:

Red Wolf



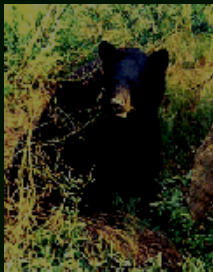
Ivory-billed
woodpecker



Florida Panther



Black Bear



1992

Mississippi
Delta

Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley

Preserving and Restoring Mississippi's Natural Resource Legacy

**The Lower Delta Partnership has Proposed the Designation of
160,000 Acres of Publicly-Owned Forest as a National Recreation Area**

The purposes of the area would be:

- Protection, restoration, and marketing the biological richness and native biodiversity through the establishment of a connected system of reserves
- Protection, restoration, and marketing the cultural and historical richness through the establishment of a network of protected interpretive sites
- Education and outreach in the areas of sustainable natural resource management and utilization

Preserving and Restoring Mississippi's Natural Resource Legacy



**WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
AREAS and STATE
PARKS**



**DELTA
NATIONAL FOREST**

**City of
Rolling Fork**



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGES**



MISSISSIPPI

**Theodore Roosevelt
National Recreation Area**



Preserving and Restoring Mississippi's Natural Resource Legacy

The Lower Delta Partnership believes that such a designation in the Lower Delta would:

- increase natural and cultural resource-based business opportunities, and
- increase natural and cultural resource-based tourism opportunities.



Preserving and Restoring Mississippi's Natural Resource Legacy

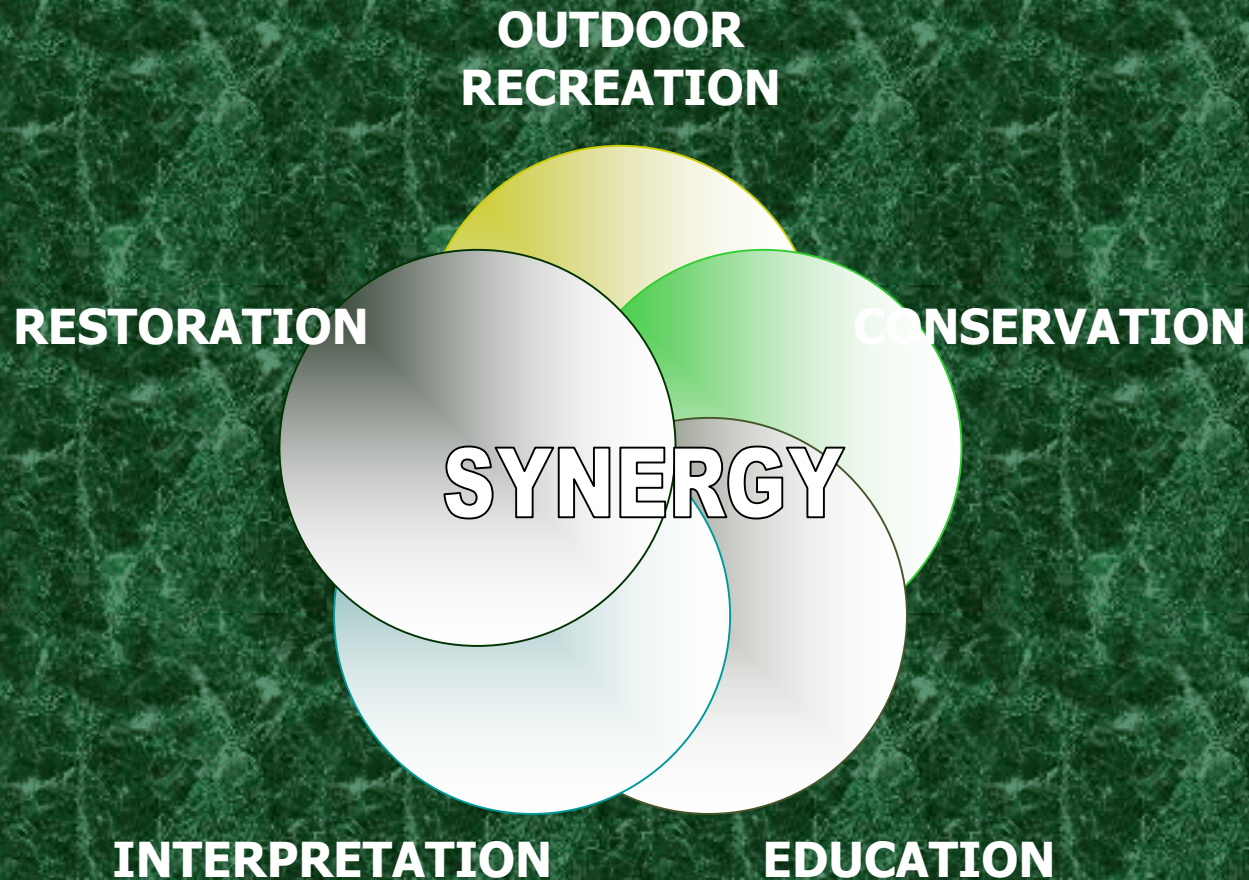
**The Lower Delta Partners are working
to restore black bear populations in Mississippi**



The mission of the Mississippi Black Bear Restoration Task Force (MBBRTF) is to restore ecologically viable and socially acceptable black bear populations to Mississippi utilizing methodologies based on the best available science.



Mississippi's Lower Delta Partnership



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